



S. Fork Sauk River Bridge #540 Replacement Project

May 2013 Update



View exhibits from the November 2011 property owners meeting and the Preliminary Channel Migration Assessment map online. Visit www.snoco.org and type "br 540" in the search box.

More Information

Questions can be sent to tina.hokanson@snoco.org, or Snohomish County Public Works, Attn: Tina Hokanson, Communications, 3000 Rockefeller Ave., Everett, WA 98201

Note: Each project is different, but typically multi-year road and bridge projects generate one, and possibly two update mailings per year where new information is provided and responses to questions can be answered at one time for everyone's benefit.

Snohomish County Public Works is moving forward with the project to replace Bridge #540 in the Darrington area. The Channel Migration Zone Study required for permitting the bridge was completed in February 2013, and is posted on the project web page - www.snoco.org, search "Bridge 540".

The study determined that a large portion of the Reece's Hideout Subdivision and the bridge lie within a Channel Migration Hazard Zone and are likely to be in the path of the river within the next 100 years.

In view of this information, property owners were asked if they would be interested in a buyout option whereby the bridge would be removed rather than replaced. Property owners representing the majority of parcels responded that they are not interested in selling their property, therefore the buyout option is no longer under consideration.

The design of the bridge is currently at the 30% stage. Later this year the SEPA Environmental Checklist will be prepared. You will have an opportunity to review the proposal and provide com-

ments during the comment period for the expected Determination of Non-significance (DNS). The Checklist and DNS will be posted on the project's web page and property owners who have provided their e-mail address will receive a link to the report. All property owners will be notified by mail when the documents are available for review, and a sign will be posted at the bridge.

Q: Can the bridge be repaired instead of replaced?

A: Patchwork fixes would be expensive and short-lived, and would be more costly in the long run.

Q: How will construction of the new bridge be funded?

A: As discussed at the November 2011 meeting, a federal bridge replacement grant will pay for 80% of the cost of replacement and requires a 20% local match. The local match will consist of county road fund dollars and payments made by property owners through a Road Improvement District (R.I.D.).

Q: Why would property owners pay a portion of the cost of the bridge?

A: The County has limited funds for road improvements, so it must focus its maintenance efforts on roads that are most heavily used. R.I.D. partnerships help provide the resources needed to construct improvements that would otherwise not be possible.

Q: How much will be due from each property and what is the timeline for payment?

A: Assessment will be based on the post construction value of each property. The bridge design has to be more complete before details can be worked out. It could be near the end of this year before we have enough information. A proposal would ultimately have to be presented at a County Council meeting for public input and approval.

Q: When will the next meeting with property owners be?

A: We anticipate having an informational meeting near the end of this year to discuss the preliminary R.I.D. option.

Construction could begin in 2017. In the meantime, send any questions to: tina.hokanson@snoco.org or to Tina Hokanson, Snohomish County Public Works Communications, 3000 Rockefeller Ave, Everett, WA 98201. We will include questions and answers in the mailers to keep everyone equally informed.



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Bridge 540 Update